

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-13 SSM-05 /085 W
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R 301229Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5483
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, US, XF
SUBJECT: POST SAYS US HOPEFUL ON ISRAEL DEFENSE LINE SCHEME

1. THE JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) MARCH 30 PRINTED THE
FOLLOWING STORY HEAD-LINED "U.S. HOPEFUL ON ISRAEL DEFENSE
LINE SCHEME."

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE US BELIEVES THAT JORDAN AND EGYPT
MIGHT EVENTUALLY AGREE TO SOME FORM OF AN ISRAELI DEFENSE
PRESENCE BEYOND ITS FINAL LEGAL BORDERS, PROVIDED THERE
IS A STRICT TIME LIMIT ATTACHED TO ANY SUCH SECURITY
ARRANGEMENT.

3. INFORMED US SOURCES HERE SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS
AND THE JORDANIANS COULD BE CONVINCED TO ACCEPT SUCH AN
ARRANGEMENT IF IT WERE CLEAR FROM THE START THAT IT WOULD
LAST FOR A VERY LIMITED PERIOD, PROBABLY NO MORE THAN
SIX OR EIGHT YEARS.

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4. ANY 'OPEN-ENDED' ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE BEYOND
ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGNTY LINES WOULD PROBABLY BE REJECTED
BY BOTH EGYPT AND JORDAN, THE SOURCES HERE SAID.

5. WHILE BOTH JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN AND EGYPT'S PRESIDENT
ANWAR SADAT ARE STILL PUBLICLY DEMANDING A WITH-
DRAWAL BY ISRAEL FROM ALL THE TERRITORIES CAPTURED

DURING THE 1967 WAR, THE AMERICANS ALSO SEEM CONVINCED THAT BOTH LEADERS MAY ULTIMATELY ACCEPT SOME MINOR BORDER ADJUSTMENTS.

6. AT THIS POINT, SOME OFFICIALS HERE BELIEVE THAT THE MAJOR HURDLE IN EVENTUAL ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WILL CENTER ON ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW TO THE 1967 BORDERS, WITH ONLY THESE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS. ACCORDING TO US SOURCES, SUCH ADJUSTMENTS WOULD PROBABLY BE NO MORE THAN ONE TO THREE KILOMETERS.

7. THE SOURCES SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONVINCED THAT ANY 'REAL' PEACE WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A 'REAL' WITHDRAWAL, MEANING APPROXIMATELY THE 1967 LINES. THEY DISMISSED AS 'COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS' REPORTS THAT NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI HAD TOLD ISRAEL AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ THAT 'MINOR BORDER ADJUSTMENTS' COULD MEAN AS MUCH AS 20 TO 50 KMS.

8. THE 'LEGAL' US POSITION ON BORDERS HAS REMAINED VERY CONSISTENT SINCE 1967, AMERICAN SOURCES HERE SAID. THIS POSITION HAS REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S ANNEXATION OF EAST JERUSALEM OR THE NEED FOR ISRAEL'S RETAINING LARGE CHUNKS OF SINAI, THE WEST BANK, OR THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

9. FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR IN PRIVATE DURING HIS TENURE THAT ISRAEL UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO RETURN ROUGHLY TO THE PRE-1967 LINES -- ALTHOUGH HE REFRAINED FROM SPEAKING ABOUT THIS IN PUBLIC.

10. 'THIS HAS BEEN THE POSITION OF THE JOHNSON, NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS,' A SOURCE HERE SAID. 'AND IT HAS NOW BEEN ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER.'

11. KING HUSSEIN, MEANWHILE, IS SEEN BY THE US AS ALREADY PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE US-ISRAEL DEFINITION OF THE TYPE OF GENUIN PEACE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE PART OF A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

12. THE SOURCES HERE SAID HUSSEIN MIGHT EVEN BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN EXCHANGE OF ISRAELI AND JORDANIAN AMBASSADORS, IN ADDITION TO PERMITTING OPEN BORDERS AND COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES.

13. PRESIDENT SADAT ALSO APPEARS TO BE MOVING IN THAT

DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH HIS SIGNALS TO WASHINGTON ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE HAVE NOT BEEN AS FORTHRIGHT AS HAVE BEEN THOSE OF HUSSEIN.

14. THE AMERICANS ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS OPTIMISTIC THAT SYRIA WILL COME AROUND AND ACCEPT A REAL PEACE AGREEMENT, NOT MERELY AN END OF THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY. SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD HAS REPORTEDLY NOT BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING IN ACCEPTING GENUINE PEACE TERMS. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE HOPE THAT HE TOO MAY COME AROUND.

15. ACCORDING TO A TOP AMERICAN OFFICIAL, SADAT USED THE WORD 'NORMALIZATION' QUITE FREELY WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE DURING HIS FEBRUARY VISIT TO CAIRO. HUSSEIN HAS BEEN READY TO MAKE REAL PEACE WITH ISRAEL FOR EVEN LONGER, THE SOURCE SAID. END TEXT.

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16. A SIMILAR STORY BY BLITZER APPEARED IN AL HAMISHMAR. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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